

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 5 - 10 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 6 are rejected. Claims 3 and 7 - 10 are objected to. Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled herein. Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify the invention, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention, and to overcome the objections to previous claim 3 (sic), so as to place the claim in condition-for-allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in previous claims 3 and 7 - 10.

The Examiner has indicated that those claims would be allowed if placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 3 previously depended from claim 1. As a matter of convenience, and to the same end result, previous claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitation of previous claim 3, instead of amending claim 3 to add the limitations of previous claim 1 thereto. Claim 3 has ben cancelled.

Previous claim 4 has also been cancelled as representing a non-simultaneously coextant alternative to the apparatus recited by currently amended claim 1. Claim 4 was previously rejected.

Claims 2, 5 and 6, all of which depend from claim 1, and which were previously rejected, should now be allowable, in that although they continue to depend from claim 1, claim 1 itself is now in allowable condition, as discussed above.

Claims 7 - 10, which were indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, should now be allowable without further amendment.

Claim 7, which depends from claim 6, should be allowable because claim 6 should now be allowable, as discussed above.

Claims 8 and 9, both of which depend from claim 1 should now be allowable because claim 1 is now allowable, as discussed above.

Claim 10, which multiply depends from either one of claims 8 and 9, should now be allowable because claims 8 and 9 should now be allowable, as discussed above.

In the Office Action, previous claims 1, 2, and 4 - 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,565,813 to Garyantes.

In the Office Action, previous claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,051,190 to Birch et al.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the above rejections are rendered moot by the amendments made to the claims by this Amendment.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended and previous claims 1, 2, and 5 - 10, which are in the application after entry of this Amendment, are now in allowable condition, the early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

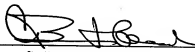
No additional claims fees are presently due.

This Amendment is being submitted within the original 3 month shortened statutory period fore response, therefore, a Request for an Extension of Time is not required and no fee for an extension of time is presently due.

No other fees are believed due at the present time. If, however, any fees are due, or if applicants are entitled to a refund of any previously made overpayments, they should be respectively charged and credited to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By


C. Bruce Hamburg
Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicants

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340